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ABSTRACT

Being a family day care provider is work that requires professional responsibilities and attention to the physical, emotional, and educational well-being of children; listening and responding to parents; and running a business. This videotape, in English- and Spanish-language versions, explores the elements involved in starting up a family day care operation. Following an overview of what is involved in starting and operating a quality family day care, sections of the video explore the following: (1) "Starting Out," including matters to consider when making the decision to become a provider and organizational aspects of the child care business, such as a business plan; (2) "Research, Rules and Regulations," including benefits of licensing in some states and additional resources for planning; (3) "Planning, Health and Safety," covering planning the child care space and safety precautions; (4) "Atmosphere," including behavior guidelines and positive discipline; (5) "Transitions," at drop-off and pick-up time as well as between day care activities; (6) "Daily Schedule," including routines as well as special celebrations and field trips; (7) "Nutrition," covering benefits of the Federal Food Program; (8) "Policies," detailing items to cover in a parent booklet; (9) "Parents," outlining various ways to communicate with parents; (10) "Business," with suggestions for keeping accurate records and for marketing; (11) "Systems," such as central management for finances and marketing as well as professional support; (12) "Accreditation," detailing an evaluation by the National Association for Family Day Care; (13) "Training and Education," suggesting types of training materials and degree programs; and (14) "Rewards," exploring the personal satisfaction of providing family day care. The viewer's guide (in English), accompanying the video, outlines the script of the video. (HTH)